



RESERVE REPORT

March 2018

Introduction

A very successful and informative evening was attended by Ingwelala members in Johannesburg in March. We had the renowned herpetologist, Johan Marais give a talk on snakes, he also briefly touched on the subject of scorpions and spiders.

This is a vast topic, but Johan shared his experiences and gave good practical advice on how to handle snake bites.

Snakebites can be serious and sometimes life threatening, thus they require swift and appropriate action. All the old wives' tales about snake bite treatment are largely incorrect. Do not attempt to cut and suck the wound and it is not always correct to bandage a wound.

You should immediately clean the wound with cool water and apply a sterile gauze, and then get to the nearest hospital as quickly as possible.

Snakebite wounds can vary dramatically from bite to bite and snakes can often in self-defence bite and inject no venom at all or so little it will not do much harm. A doctor needs to do a thorough assessment of the condition of a snakebite victim before anti-venom is administered. The vast majority of snakebite victims who are hospitalised soon after a bite will survive. No more than 15% of snakebite victims require anti-venom.

Of the 173 species of snakes in Southern Africa, only 11% are considered deadly. The very dangerous snakes that we might find at Ingwelala are:

- Black Mamba
- Mozambique Spitting Cobra
- Common Boomslang
- Snouted Cobra
- Puff Adder
- Southern Twig Snake.



The **Mozambique Spitting Cobra** accounts for the vast majority of serious bites followed by the Puff Adder. The Mozambique Spitting cobra's diet consist of frogs, small mammals, birds and other snakes. It is active on overcast days, but more active at night. It often ends up in people's houses, mistaking a sleeping person for food and thus there are higher incidents of cobra bites compared to other snakes.

The **Black Mamba** is often said to be the deadliest snake in the world and with good reason. It is a large and active snake and has a very potent neurotoxic venom and in serious bites the victim could experience severe breathing problems in less than half an hour.

However, there are many misconceptions about the Mamba, for example Black Mamba's are not by nature an aggressive snake and are in fact quick to avoid people. But, if it is cornered in a small space and cannot escape easily, it will strike readily. When threatened it gapes, exposing the black inner lining of the mouth and it may form a narrow hood.

The vast majority of serious snakebites occur between January and April and during the evening. Around 84% of bites are on the legs below the knee or on the hands. Well over 90% are from the Mozambique Spitting Cobra. These bites are extremely painful and are accompanied by swelling, blisters and tissue damage.

During hot weather snakes keep a low profile as dehydration is a real problem for them and they remain dormant underground or in hollow tree trunks. Once the rain comes they are very active.

Of the 57 back fanged snakes 2 are considered extremely dangerous, the Boomslang and the Twig or Vine Snake. Bites from the twig or vine snakes are very rare, they are well camouflaged and live in trees, hedges and shrubs and are placid unless provoked.

The **Boomslang** is also found in trees and shrubs but may descend to the ground to bask in the sun. It has a pleasant disposition and will usually only bite if stood on or captured.

The venom glands in both the Boomslang and Twig snake is vastly different from that of the cobra, mamba and adders. They have Duvernoy glands, which means that they have no control over their venom. Thus, in order to envenomate their prey, they chew their prey. The more they chew, the more venom they manage to inject.

The main thing to remember is leave snakes alone and treat them with respect at all times. Do not handle a snake even if you think it is dead, they have a nasty habit of playing dead when they are scared. Wear boots and thick trousers or jeans if you spend a great deal of time outdoors. Never walk barefoot or without a torch at night when camping or visiting facilities in the bush. Do not try to kill or catch a snake if you come across one, throwing rocks or shooting a snake is looking for trouble, don't either use your braai tongs to try and catch one.

In case of a snakebite emergency, do not attempt to catch or kill the snake- rather take a photograph from a safe distance, to assist with identification.

If you are at Ingwelala radio the duty Manager immediately.

The Communications Portfolio of the Board, chaired by Belinda Scott, is in the process of placing Snake Identification Charts in the Hides on the Ingwelala and Associated Companies properties.

Staff complement



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Staff Movement

Nil.



Staff profile (meet the team):



Lisbeth Ndlovu joined the Ingwelala Housekeeping Team as a permanent employee on 8 December 1991. She has worked mainly in management staff houses since starting at Ingwelela. She also assists with the laundry and Members' bungalows.

Lisbeth has lived in the area all her life. She was born in the Timbavati. She is married and had one child, however, she lost this child some years ago. She has five adult grandchildren – one girl and four boys, two of whom work in the mining industry.

Lisbeth says she is extremely happy at Ingwelala and enjoys her work as a housekeeper. She gets on very well with her colleagues and has a strong bond with them.

Lisbeth will be retiring later this year and is looking forward to it she says.

In her spare time she makes beautiful grass mats and wooden spoons, something she thoroughly enjoys doing.

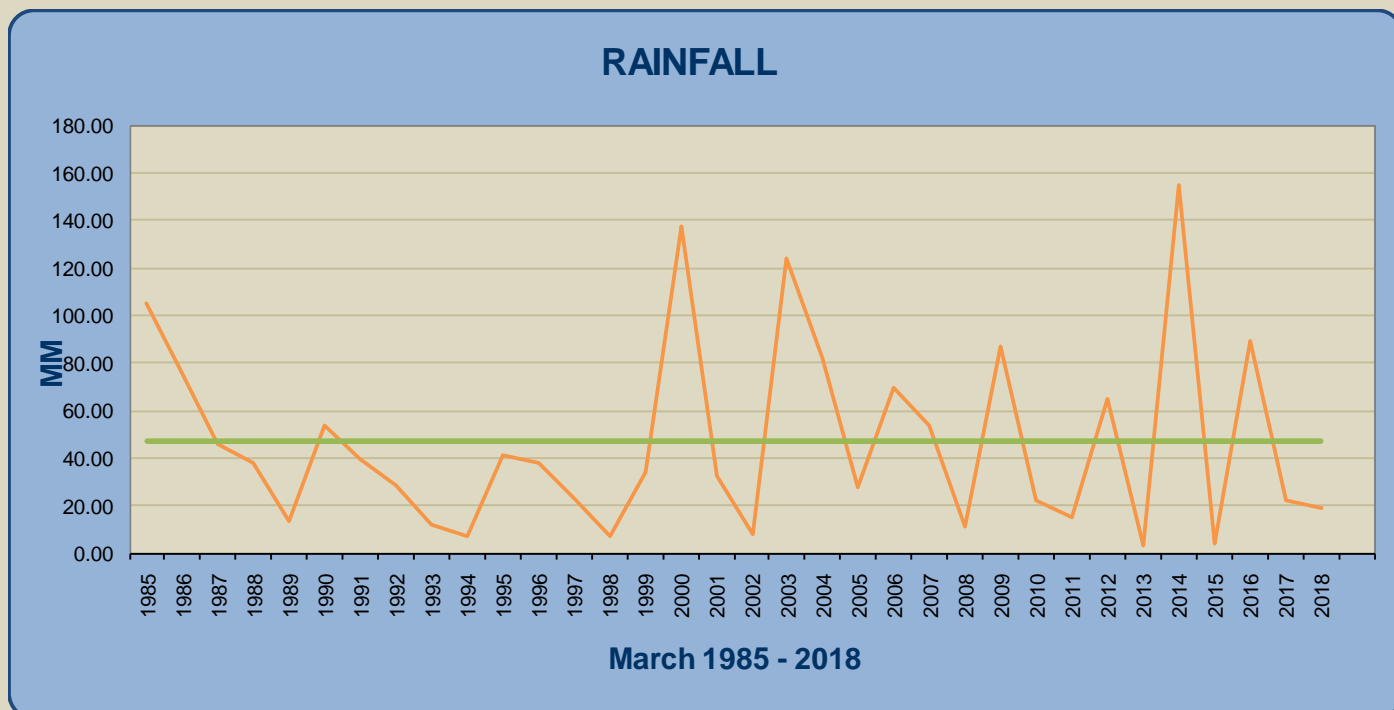
Bungalows for sale

Nil.

Climate and rainfall (summary)

Rainfall:	19.4 mm
Minimum temperature:	17 degrees Celsius.
Maximum temperature:	38 degrees Celsius.

The following graph summarises total rainfall recorded at Ingwelala for the month of March over the past 33 years.



(Note: March 2018: 19.4 mm rainfall is well below the monthly average of 46.9 mm)

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Nil.

Veld Rehabilitation

The current (dry) veld conditions (sparse grass and hard soil surfaces) continue to prevent further veld rehabilitation work.

Erosion Control

Nil.

Roads and Tracks

All the river crossings were levelled, and the entry/exit points graded and dragged with tyres.

On all four properties, all localised areas with rutted road surfaces were attended to with tractor grading and dragging tyres.

Encroaching branches into and over the roads were trimmed where necessary.

Ingwelala Drive and the Camp perimeter roads were dragged with tyres.

Airstrip

The airstrip surface was inspected on a regular basis and the general condition recorded in a register.

The encroaching vegetation on the runway surface at the south end and on the apron was mowed for a second successive month. These are hardy weed plants that thrive under the drier conditions.

A reminder please that all airstrip users must complete (once off) an **Ingwelala Airstrip Indemnity Form** before landing. Indemnity forms are obtainable from reception@ingwelala.co.za Guest pilots must also complete the form before using the airstrip.

Fencing

There were four attempts to breach the camp fence by elephants, and successful on one occasion. The Conservation Team attended to and repaired the damages.

Bomas, Hides and Picnic Sites

All checked and serviced on a regular basis.

Game sightings

Month on month the game sightings increased significantly. Excluding low buffalo numbers, Big Five sightings were excellent. It was good to note a marked increase in elephant breeding herds, perhaps an indication that the grasses are partially recovering with the late rains, as elephants are known to increase grass intake during the summer growth season. There were numerous superb lion sightings, with cubs, providing excellent photographic opportunities. Leopard sightings always provide great elation to the viewer, even if the viewing is short lived. A discovery of two adult leopards together even greater elation.

There were two reports of wild dogs.

In the sightings register, it was void of general or common game, save the mention of zebra, giraffe and blue wildebeest. There was mention of spring hare, a puff adder and several black mamba sightings.

The Birders produced an impressive list which included Fish Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Ground Hornbill, Kori Bustard, Levallant's Cuckoo, Jacobin Cuckoo, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Diederik Cuckoo, Paradise Flycatcher, White-fronted Bee eater, Woolley-necked Stork, Saddle-billed Stork and Spoonbill.



Security

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

Road Kills

X 1 Yellow-billed Hornbill

General Fire Risk Management

Veld fire and general fire risk in the veld is low given the sparse ground cover.

Fire-fighting equipment is checked on a weekly basis.

X 1 tractor available to assist with fire-fighting (x2 water drawn carts).

X 1 "Bakkie-Sakkie" serviceable and responsive on a "first call" basis.

X 20 fire beaters and x4 knap-sack sprays in good working order.

Umbabat

An introductory letter on the appointment of the new Umbabat Warden, Bryan Havemann, will follow from the Chairman.

Water reticulation

Yield data for the boreholes is reflected in the following table, comparative with previous months.

BOREHOLE	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17
BH NO 1	1	0	189	149	0	150	277	428	0	34	298	188	87
BH NO 2	1103	877	1247	1603	1274	992	1082	959	1113	1043	1000	1141	1005
BH NO 3	654	627	500	425	682	534	653	531	1176	151	557	681	342
BH NO 4	0	0	0	0	768	0	0	0	78	181	483	425	322
BH NO 5	523	468	506	534	517	293	159	151	158	238	467	445	353
BH NO 6	347	234	481	565	1055	1218	1082	1018	769	367	675	622	683
BH NO 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BH NO 9	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar
JB	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	350	1282	491	278	43	0
GOEDEHOOP	1317	721	842	1297	774	1119	480	664	290	1312	1395	780	0

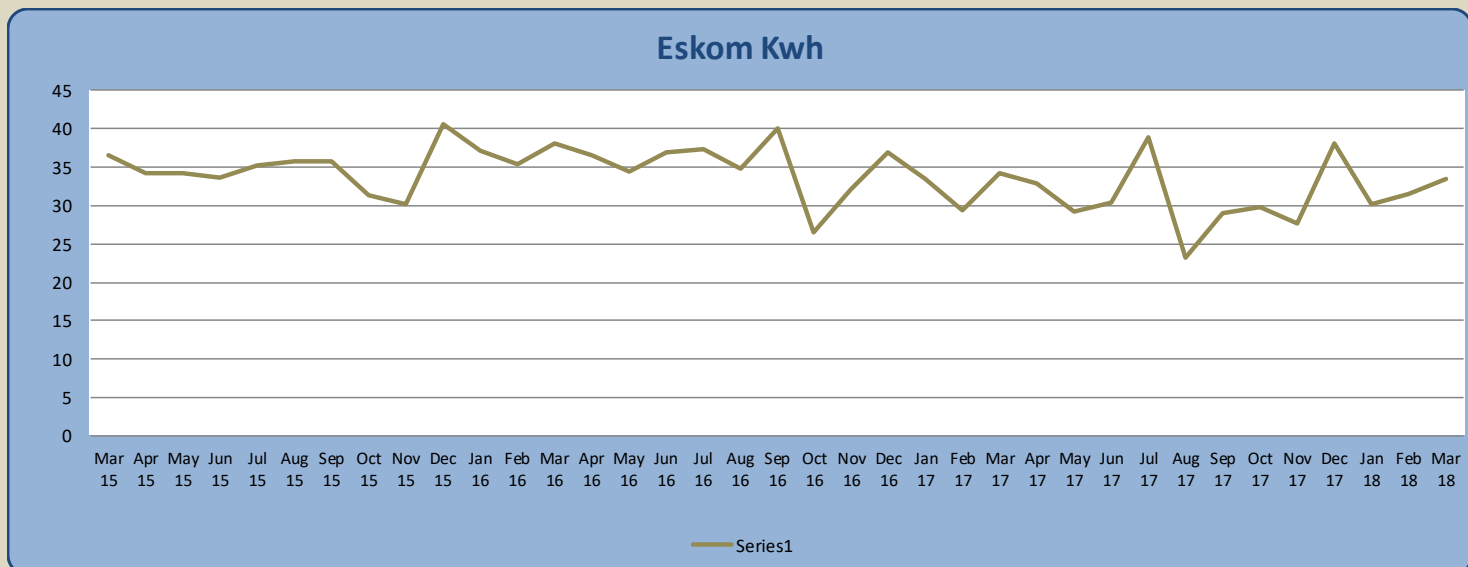
Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17
JOB CARDS OPENED	60	23	51	64	36	54	36	75	68	48	67	46
JOB CARDS CLOSED	46	23	49	66	37	50	38	54	53	58	63	57
GENERATOR HOURS	1.4	18.9	1.8	22	1.1	9.3	0	1	2.6	0	6.6	10.9
DIESEL TANK (L)	970	990	530	80	345	380	430	430	500	575	575	650

The general fleet and static plant maintenance is 100% compliant with the servicing schedule.

Eskom Usage

The following graph shows the monthly Eskom Usage (Kwh) for Ingwelala.



Building projects

Current (major) building projects are listed below:

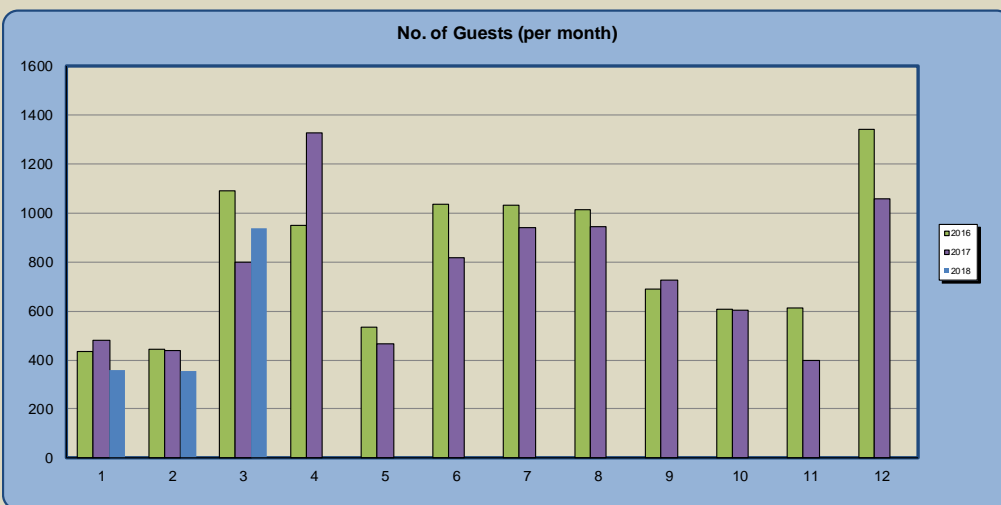
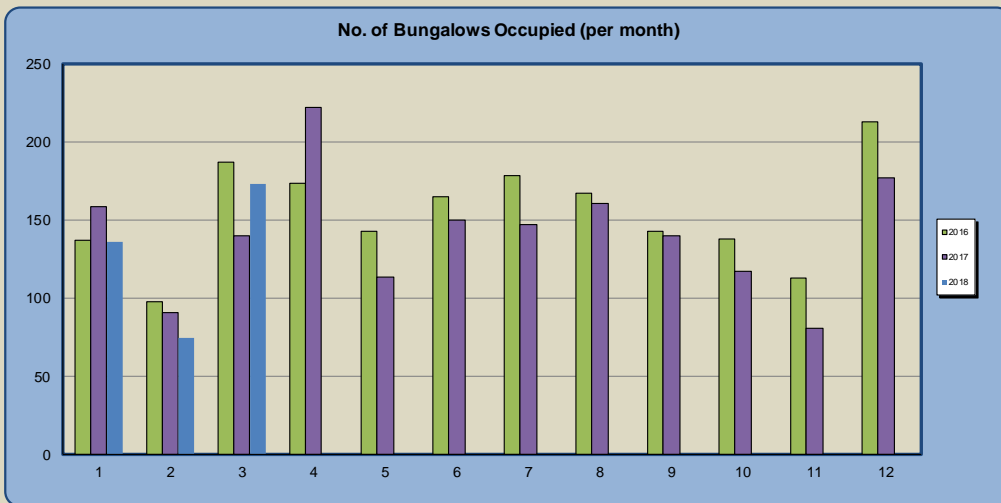
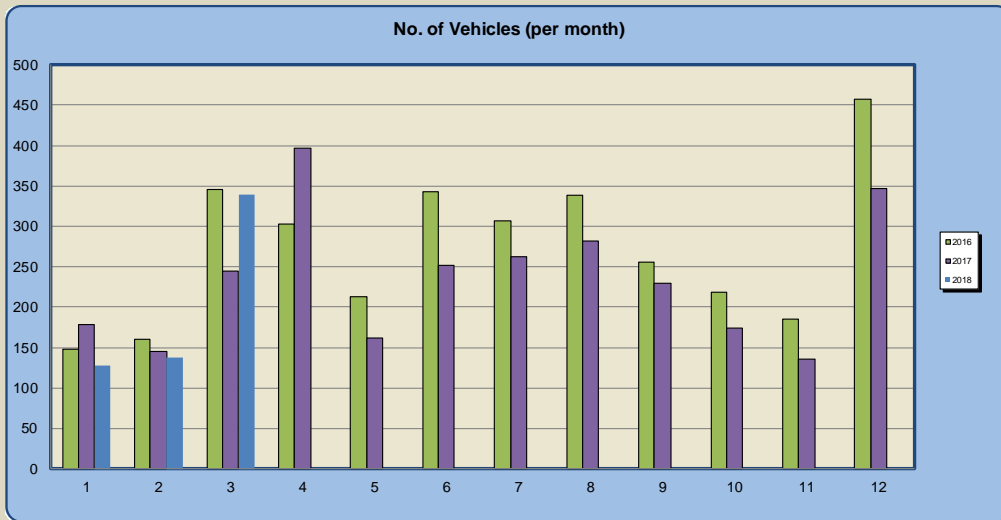
Bung No	Name	Work requested	Approval	Builder	% Complete
16	Peter Wirsam	New Windows/Gazebo & Rethatch	March 2018	Dukes Construction	0%
38	Gordon Pascoe	Demolish & rebuild	July 2017	Dukes Construction	55%
44	Cecil Bodenstein	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	June 2017	Owner builder	65%
86	Martinus vd Reyden	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	July 2017	Chameleon	95%
181	Shayne Holt	Rethatch & internal changes	January 2018	Chameleon	20%
185	Weston Dickson	Demolish and rebuild	January 2017	Chameleon	85%
202	Jan Kitshoff	Rethatch & internal changes	August 2017	Chameleon	85%

Reception Statistics

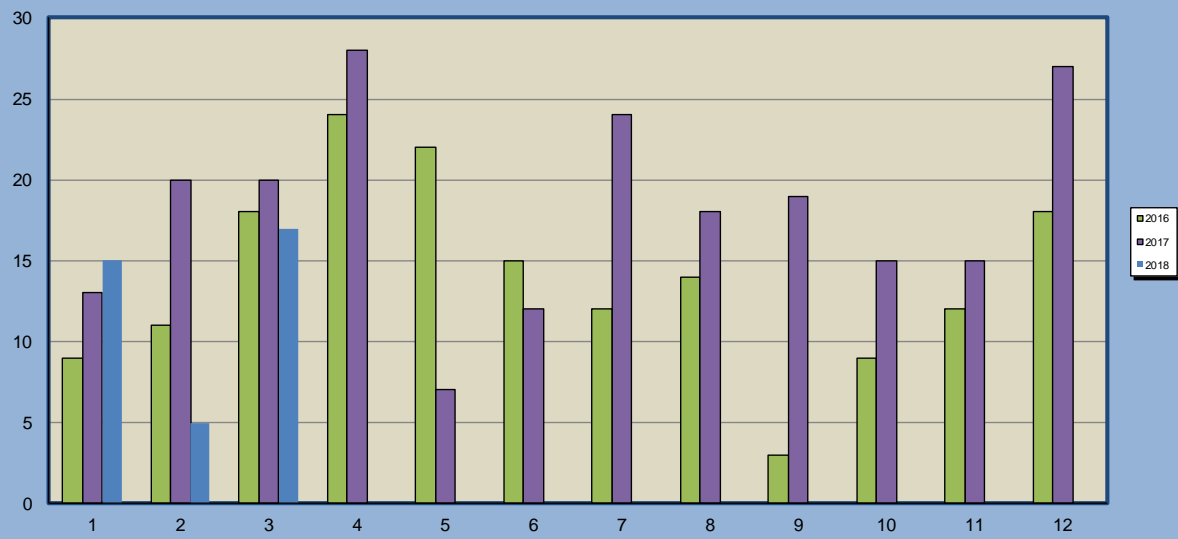
GATE STATISTICS	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17
VEHICLES	340	138	128	347	135	174	230	282	263	251	162	397
MEMBERS GUESTS	956	356	357	1060	399	601	727	945	940	818	465	1328
UNACCOMP GUESTS	0	0	0	7	2	9	7	4	4	3	0	34
UNITS OCCUPIED	173	75	136	177	81	117	140	161	147	150	114	222
AIRBORNE VISITORS	3	3	9	1	6	9	4	5	17	16	2	17

COTTAGE NIGHTS	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17	MAR 17
HORNBILL	17	5	15	27	15	15	19	18	24	12	7	28	20
FRANCOLIN	12	4	10	18	7	12	12	11	26	17	0	19	13
GUINEAFOWL	16	7	5	15	3	11	11	20	26	12	6	17	4

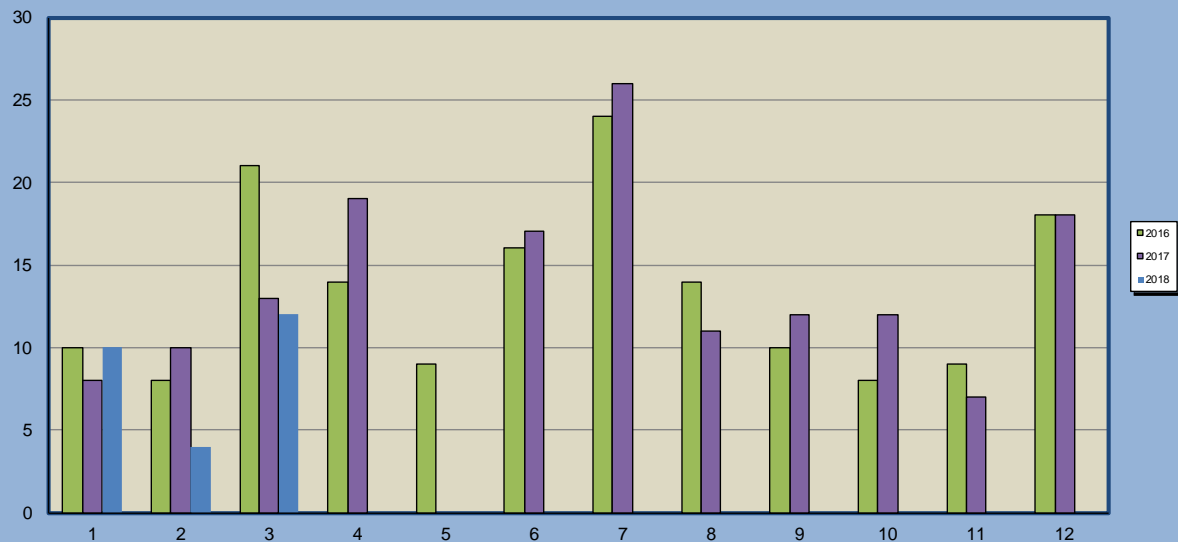
Annexure 1: Graphs



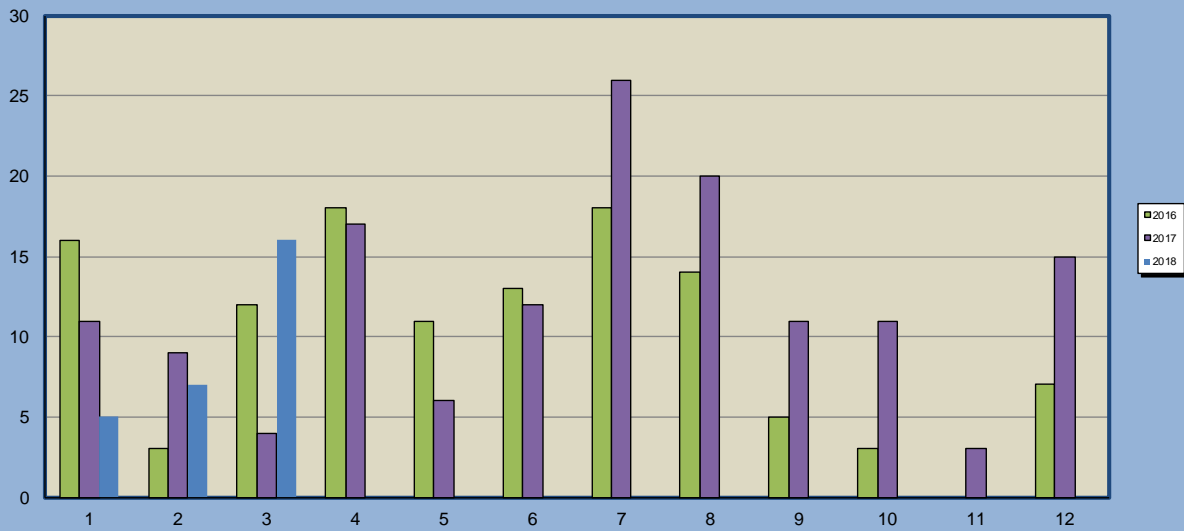
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



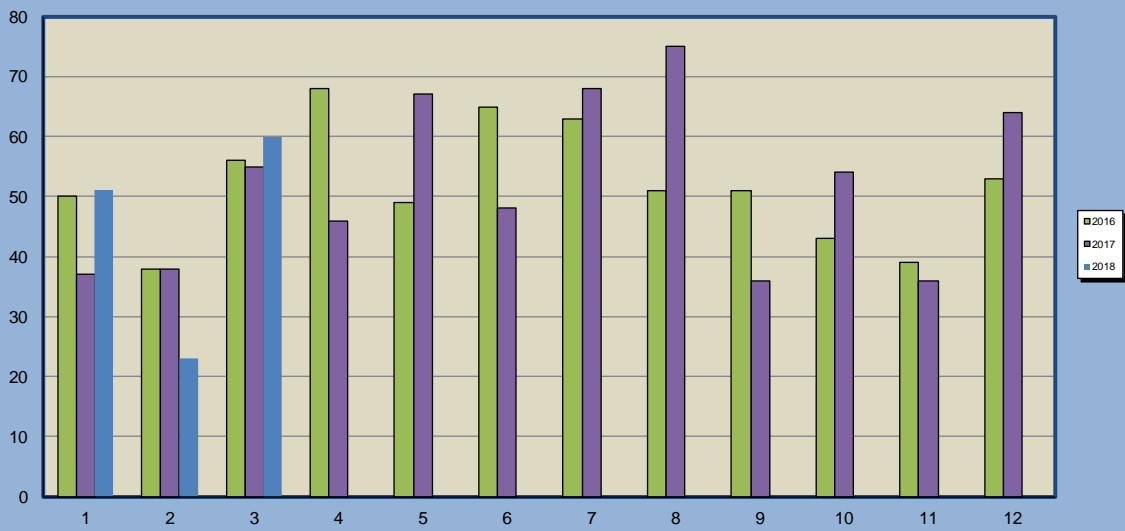
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



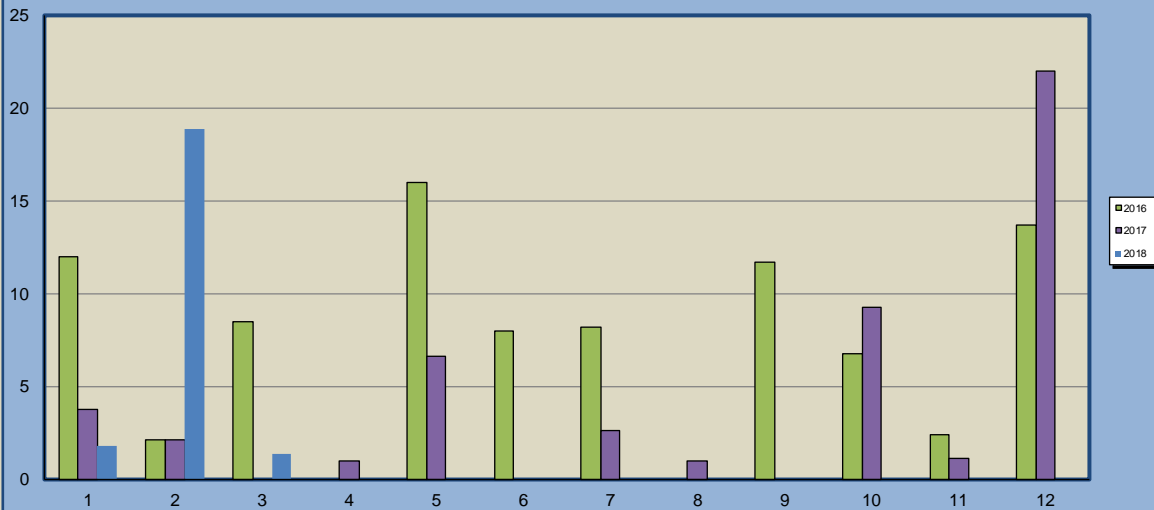
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³ (combined boreholes per month)

